

## Contributions

### THE POWER OF GOD

MARCUS A. WITTER

The power of God is shown on every hand.  
When I behold the lightning in the sky  
And hear the peals of thunder roll on high,  
Or think that God himself created man;  
When in the twilight breeze, the flowers nod  
Before the glowing sun proclaims the day,  
My spirit moves within me and I say  
"How manifold the work of Nature's God!"  
'Tis shown in every leaf upon the tree,  
The little bird proclaims it from the bough,  
The mountain rears its crest to dizzy height  
And by its awful grandeur says to me,  
"Behold me and admire," I think, O how  
Impossible to comprehend God's might!

Jones Mills, Pa.

### SOMETHING INTERESTING

R. R. TEETER

Some people are inclined to get the "blues." I am glad I do not belong to that class. Judging from appearances they must feel miserable. To those who are inclined to feel "blue" about the future of the Brethren church I present the following figures. They are based upon the "Statistics of the Churches" in *The Independent* for January 5. I was surprised as I made the calculation, and made to feel that the Brethren church may accomplish great things in the future, "if we faint not."

We often measure power by success. Notice the per cent. of increase of the leading churches of America during the past year.

	PER CENT.		PER CENT.
Adventists,	3 00	Menonites,	3 20
Baptists,	4 80	Methodists,	2 80
Catholics,	0 74	Presbyterians,	3 60
Christians,	2 30	United Brethren,	2 00
Disciples,	3.20	Unitarians,	7 10
Episcopalians,	3 20	German Baptist,	5 80
Evangelical,	15.40	Brethren,	25.00
Friends,	0 98	Universalists, de-	
Lutherans,	1 20	crease,	4 20

Out of seventeen churches named it is seen that the Brethren church stands away in advance of any of the number. Of course the above table may not be entirely correct, but as I have said it is based upon statistics given in *The Independent*.

Milledgeville, Ill.

### THE FEAR OF THE LORD

S. KIEHL

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life.—Prov. 14: 27. Happy are they who drink deeply from this fountain. As Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, so is God the author and giver of that holy fear which will restrain a child of his from departing from Him. It is written, I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.—Jer. 32: 40.

It will also enable the believer to do that, in God's service, which otherwise he could not do. It is written of Abra-

ham, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.—Gen. 22: 12.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.—Psa. 111: 10. If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord.—Prov. 2: 4, 5.

It is not only our happy privilege to possess this gracious gift, so indispensably necessary in the Lord's service, but it is our duty to teach it to others also. The Psalmist writes, Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.—Psa. 34: 11-14. By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.—Prov. 16: 6. O Lord, let us have grace, whereby we may serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear.—Heb. 12: 28.

Some of the blessings enjoyed by those who fear the Lord are given in these words: The Lord pitieth them that fear him.—Psa. 103: 13. There is no want to them that fear him.—Psa. 24: 9. Great is his mercy toward them that fear him.—Psa. 103: 11. His salvation is nigh them that fear him.—Psa. 85: 9. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him.—Psa. 147: 11.

A beautiful command is given to those who fear the Lord, reading thus: Ye that fear the Lord, bless the Lord.—Psa. 135: 20. Would it not be a delightful task and a feast to the soul of every believer frequently to offer, with sincerity and thankfulness of heart, this blessing? Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.—Psa. 103: 1-5.

A rich reward awaits the faithful. It is written: They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that saveth him.—Mal. 3: 16, 17.

A good man is one who is growing better.

### SPIRITUAL JOY

ALICE HARLEY

When is the time to rejoice? Is it when circumstances are favorable, when difficulties are removed and skies are cloudless, and we are met with cordial smiles on every side? Ah, praise comes easy then, but the time to glorify God the most by praise is when we are tried and tempted, and when our surroundings are not so pleasant. Paul exhorts us to "rejoice always." God has given us Christ, and he wants us to have him every moment, and he should be the joy of every hour of our lives. Do we serve him with that joy and gladness which he requires? Are we joyful in all our service for the King, or do we let something prey upon our joy, thus taking away the secret source of divine strength? For the Word says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness, and we in Christ, living the Christ-life, must be anointed with this oil of gladness through the power of the Holy Ghost. How often we hear people say, "My circumstances mar my happiness." What were the circumstances that were around about Christ when he was walking on the sea?—The wind and the waves, \* \* \* and he walked triumphantly over circumstances. Before our Captain went to the garden of Gethsemane, to meet the sorrest of his conflicts, he sang a hymn. And when Paul and Silas were cast into prison, beaten with many stripes, in this awful torture, they still rejoiced and sang praises unto God. So let us "rejoice evermore," even when we are facing difficulties.

We should rejoice in temptation, because it is one of the instruments used by God to complete our perfection. Nothing so cultivates the grace of patience as the endurance of temptation; and nothing so drives the soul to an utter dependence upon the Lord as its continuance. And finally, nothing brings more praise and glory to our Lord himself, than the trials of our faith that come through manifold temptations. We are told that it is "more precious than gold, though it be tried with fire;" and that we, who patiently endure the trial, shall receive, for our reward, the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Chapin says, "The brightest crowns that are worn in heaven, have been tried and smelted, and polished, and glorified through the furnace of tribulation."

We cannot wonder therefore any longer at the exhortation of James, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."